HEADQUARTERS
DEFENSE DOCUMENTATION CENTER
A field activity of the Defense Supply Agency
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CAMERON STATION, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

DDC: ORIGINS AND MILESTONES

1926 -- A Technical News Service was started by two Air Corps Engineering employees at McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio, from which the DDC announcement and classification bulletin evolved.

1929 -- Technical News Service was transferred to Wright Field where the publication remained until 1957, when the Armed Services Technical Information Agency (ASTIA) moved to Washington, D. C.

1933 -- ZWB - Center for Scientific Information on Aeronautical Research established in Germany. Many reports collected by this center became part of what is now the DDC collection.

1941 -- June: The Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) was established by the government. During World War II, OSRD produced some 33,000 documents. All significant reports are in the present DDC collection.

1945 -- May: Nearly 1,500 Air Force Technical Intelligence teams fanned out over Germany to search for scientific information.

June: Documents were assembled at a Pre-Screening Center at Hanau, Germany. By October, a total of 1750 tons of reports had been "liberated".

July: Air Documents Research Center JA-2 (Intelligence USAAF) was established at London with Colonel H. M. McCoy, USAAF, as Technical Information Director. Working with Army Air Force were the United States Navy and the British War Ministry.

December: Air Documents Division (ADD) of the Intelligence (T-2) Department of the Headquarters, Air Technical Service, AAF, at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, took over some 800,000 documents from the European operation. Captured Japanese scientific documents were added. The Navy Bureau of Aeronautics Liaison Office transferred to Wright Field at the same time. Colonel Albert A. Arnhym, USAAF, became chief.

1946 -- Office of Naval Research (ONR) established and took custody of Office of Scientific Research and Development Reports.

1947 -- January: ONR awarded a contract to the Library of Congress to catalog the Navy's collection of technical reports and STP -- the Science and Technology Project was started.

Spring: Institute of Aeronautical Sciences awarded contract by ADD to establish Standard Aeronautical Index System (SAIS) with Leslie E. Neville, later first director of ASTIA, as project manager.

September: The United States Air Force became a separate military department. ADD took over the Navy Liaison Office and agreed to serve the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics.

November: Cataloging of 56,000 German documents and 3,000 Japanese documents completed by ADD. These are in the present DDC collection.

1948 -- 13 October: Central Air Documents Office (CADO) established by the Air Force and the Navy with Colonel Arnhym as director. CADO took over all the captured German and Japanese documents in addition to the quarter million Wright Field collection of technical reports dating back to World War I. Operational Order (AFR 20-10/CNO Letter, Serial 193P551) was dated 18 August 1949.

1949 -- June: ONR project became Navy Research Section (NRS) of the Science Division of the Reference Department of the Library of Congress.

June: Snow, Ice and Permafrost Research Establishment (SIPRE) created by ONR as one of the first defense operated scientific and technical information evaluation centers.

1950 -- January: The Secretary of the Army joined in the agreement to operate CADO and an Army officer was assigned as Assistant Director.

December: CADO West Coast Office at Los Angeles established.

1951 -- 14 May: Secretary of Defense, George C. Marshall, established the Armed Services Technical Information Agency (ASTIA) under the policy direction of the Department of Defense Research and Development (R&D) Board and the management control of the Secretary of the Air Force.

14 May: ASTIA Advisory Council was appointed to assist the Director in the operations of the Agency.

6 July: The Secretary of the Air Force delegated the active management of ASTIA to the Air Research and Development Command, where it has remained ever since.

8 October: Mr. Leslie E. Neville, public relations director of Curtiss-Wright Corporation, became the director of ASTIA.

1952 -- 1 January: CADO was taken over by ASTIA and renamed the ASTIA Document Service Center. CADO had a document collection of some 250,000 and its document requests from users for Fiscal Year 1951 totaled about 40,000.

20 June: The R&D Board endorsed the policy that ASTIA provide such services as were feasible and desired to governmental agencies related to the Department of Defense, such as "NACA and AEC".

November: ASTIA East Coast Regional Office established in New York City.

1953 -- 8 January: The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) directed that the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force participate equally in the financing of ASTIA.

16 February: The tri-service regulation for the operation of ASTIA, AFR 205-43; AR 380-60; OPNAVINST 5510.17, was promulgated.

6 May: The Navy Research Section of the Library of Congress, operated for the Office of Naval Research since 1947, with a collection of some 150,000 documents, was taken over by ASTIA and renamed the ASTIA Reference Center.

1 July: Document requests for the year exceeded one-hundred-thousand.

1954 -- 1 July: Joint funding of ASTIA was discontinued and ASTIA was funded by the Air Research and Development Command.

August: The Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D) ASTIA Policy Council replaced the ASTIA Advisory Council.

1955 -- Colonel Franklin K. Fagan, USAF, former Inspector General, ARDC, was assigned as Commander.

1956 -- 4 June: ASTIA was authorized to provide unclassified documents to NATO nations by Change 1 of the tri-service directive.

December: The first electrostatic reproduction unit was placed in operation at ASTIA. Subsequently, seven machines working 24 hours a day were required to meet the demand for hard copies of documents.

1957 -- 1 July: The San Francisco Regional Office was opened.

21 August: Colonel Woodrow W. Dunlop, USAF, former Deputy Commander for Support, Air Force Cambridge Research Center, became Commander and Director of ASTIA.

1958 -- 3 February: ASTIA consolidated its operations by moving eighty (80) van-loads of documents and equipment to Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia.

April: The ASTIA Operational Liaison Committee was established with official representatives of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

29 August: SEATO nations were added to ASTIA's authorized foreign release service.

1 September: The ASTIA Policy Council was abolished and policy guidance was directed to come from the office which later became known as the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

1960 -- 15 February: ASTIA placed the release control of all the documents it had acquired since 1 March 1953 under control of an electronic data processing system.

1 May: ASTIA published its first machine-tailored vocabulary of scientific terminology--Thesaurus of ASTIA Descriptors.

1 June: The Department of Defense authorized ASTIA to provide service to grantees and potential contractors of the military departments.

1 July: Document requests exceeded half a million.

16 December: The Current ARDC Technical Efforts (CATE) Program, for quickly identifying and locating scientists and engineers working in technical fields of interest to the Air Force, was assigned to ASTIA for inclusion in its Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) management data project.

1961 -- 19 June: Colonel James O. Vann, USAF, became Commander of ASTIA.

1 July: ASTIA started providing the Office of Technical Services (OTS) of the Department of Commerce microfilm copies, for sale to the general public, of all the Department of Defense unclassified unlimited release reports it received.

15 October: Reader-Printers were obtained for ASTIA Technical Operations Divisions in New York, Dayton, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and headquarters Reference Office.

16 October: Retrieval capabilities of RDT&E with all basic research programed into the computer were demonstrated.

1962 -- 15 March: The first Interdepartmental Data Exchange Program (IDEP) reports providing data on missile and rocket component reliability were announced by ASTIA.

23 March: Installation of second solid state tape computer system was completed.

April: The Task Force to the President's Special Assistant for Science and Technology presented its report on "Scientific and Technological Communication in the Government" (Crawford Report, AD 299 545).

4 May: Tri-service Staff Representatives replaced the former Army, Navy, Air Force ASTIA Operational Liaison Committee.

18 May: Dr. Charles L. Bernier, former Editor of Chemical Abstracts, became Director of ASTIA.

15 June: ASTIA began supplying microfilm of all its unclassified unlimited release reports to twelve (12) NSF-OTS Regional Technical Report Centers in Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and two centers in California.

1 October: ASTIA Huntsville Technical Operations Division opened at the Army's Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.

18 December: Mr. Walter M. Carlson, Chemical Engineer formerly with Dupont, was named Defense Director of Technical Information.

31 December: Department of Defense Directive 5100.36 established the DoD Scientific and Technical Information program.

1963 -- 10 January: The President's Science Advisory Committee published its report on "Science, Government and Information" (Weinberg Report).

22 January: Department of Defense Instruction 5129.43 established ASTIA as the DoD Documentation Center for Scientific and Technical Information.

19 March: Department of Defense Instruction 5100.38 expanded the ASTIA mission and reconstituted ASTIA as the Defense Documentation Center for Scientific and Technical Information (DDC). ASTIA Tri-service Staff became the DDC Liaison Representatives.

1 July: Requests for documents during Fiscal Year 1963 totaled more than a million.

8 July: DDC moved to a new building at Cameron Station, Alexandria, Virginia.

1963 -- 22 July: DDC was authorized to lease a computer that provides immediate access to 500,000,000 alpha-numeric characters on drums.

1 September: The DDC Boston Technical Operations Division became operational.

1 November: DDC became a field activity of the Defense Supply Agency under Lt. Gen. Andrew T. McNamara, USA. Dr. Robert B. Stegmaier, Jr., Staff Assistant to the Defense Director of Technical Information, became DDC Administrator.